

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Robie House

AND/OR COMMON

Robie House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

5757 South Woodlawn Avenue

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Chicago

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

CODE

17

COUNTY

Cook

CODE

031

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

University of Chicago (Office of Special Events, Administration Building)

STREET &amp; NUMBER

5801 Ellis Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Chicago

STATE

Illinois

\_\_ VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cook County Recorder and Registrar of Titles

STREET &amp; NUMBER

118 North Clark Street

CITY, TOWN

Chicago

STATE

Illinois

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey (ILL-1005)

DATE

1963 and 1967

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Robie House has been called Wright's strongest statement in domestic design. Its free-flowing interior spaces, overhanging roofs to shade windows and balconies, indoor recreation spaces, and strong horizontal lines forecast trends in house design during the following 50 years.

As sculpture it can be considered an abstraction in lines and planes. Pictorially the tawn brick and dove-colored concrete trim are pleasing to the eye. The entrance has been awarded a minor role and treatment of the chimney stack lends drama. Inside the sensations of security and privacy are enhanced by elevating the principal rooms one story above a raised basement. The garage was another novel feature of this house and probably for the first time in American architecture, it became an integral part of the whole.

The Commission on Chicago Architectural Landmarks declared Robie House a landmark, "In recognition of the creation of the Prairie House--a home organized around the great hearth where interior space, under wide sweeping roofs, opens to the outdoors."

The asymmetrically planned house, with overall dimensions of 154'9" by 60'-0", fits very exactly on the original 200' by 60' lot. The exterior walls are of large reddish-orange brick which were made in St. Louis, and the Capstones, lintels, sills, water table and other trim are of light grey stone. The several red clay tile roofs are hipped with a low pitch and deep overhanging eaves.

Although a number of windows have been re-glazed with clear glass, the newly built Robie House had windows with one geometric pattern of colored glass repeated in every window in the house. The wall around the courtyard originally was several feet higher, but later owners reduced the height of the wall in order to obtain matching bricks to use to add a storage room east of the garage. The floor plan, with alterations of the Wright plan noted, can be seen on the enclosed HABS drawings.

Wright also designed much of the furniture, which was made by George Niederken of Milwaukee, as well as a hand-woven rug made in Austria. The furniture and all the woodwork were oak, with a "golden oak" finish. The furniture, some of which was built-in, was related in style to what was called the mission style in the United States and some of it still exists, in storage. Wright himself described the house as:

As type of structure especially suited to the prairie will be found in Robie House, which is virtually a one-floor arrangement, raised a low story height above the level of the ground. Sleeping rooms are added where necessary in another story. There is no excavation for this type, except for heating purposes. The ground floor provides billiard rooms or playrooms for children. This plan raised the living room well off the ground, which is often damp, and avoids the ordinary damp basement. (Robie House was built on land formerly a swamp.)

Wright, in his Princeton lectures, Modern Architecture, said that Robie House embodies these ideas:

0. Rejection of the high, jumbled house of the time, with hot attic, damp basement.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Robie House ITEM NUMBER #7 PAGE 2

1. Starting the house at ground level, marked by a simple water-table.
2. Placing the living area, then, at an upper level, for view and air.
3. Keeping the house low, horizontally extended (association with the prairie).
4. Conceiving the walls as screens, emphasizing this by bands of windows in the second story.
5. Roofs of gentle slope, and with broad expansion beyond the walls (sense of shelter; echo of the prairie).
6. A broad fireplace (and low, broad chimney on the exterior), as center or focus of the design (associated ideas of warmth, domesticity).
7. Free-flowing living area, avoiding boxlike rooms.
8. Plasticity (connectedness) achieved by: A. Surface of ceiling carried down the walls to window tops, so that walls and ceiling "flow together"; B. Wood trim continuously flowing at top of windows and doors, and at the floor, and these connected by thin vertical bands; and C. Other ways "too tedious to describe in words."
9. Outswinging windows, to associate the house, by this gesture, with the outdoors.
10. Heating and lighting integrated as architectural features.
11. Furnishings to be designed with the architecture, if possible.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1907-1909 (construction) BUILDER/ARCHITECT B.B. Barnard Company, builder  
Frank Lloyd Wright, architect

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Robie House was designed and constructed (1907-1909) by Frank Lloyd Wright, for Frederick Carleton Robie. One of the finest representative examples of the mature work of this famous architect, it has been designated as an official landmark by the Commission on Chicago Architectural Landmarks. In 1957, a panel of leading architects and art historians cited the Robie House as one of the two outstanding residences built in the United States in the preceding 50 years. This clean-cut brick structure, which Wright developed in his inimitable "prairie style" to fit the confines of a city lot, has won international acclaim as a recognized turning point in modern domestic architecture.

House and Home Magazine featured "One Hundred Years of American Homes", in its May, 1957 issue, timed to observe the centennial of the American Institute of Architects. Succinctly expressed, Robie House was the House of the Century. "Since 1857 no house has had more influence," was the unqualified appraisal of this respected publication.

It is a hard task to summarize the significance of Robie House and its real impact on our cultural life today, yet House and Home accomplished this feat with notable success and with brevity that invites quotation:

No House in America during the past hundred years matches the importance of Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House.

Above all else, the Robie house is a magnificent work of art. But, in addition, the house introduced so many concepts in planning construction that its full influence cannot be measured accurately for many years to come. Without this house, much of modern architecture as we know it today might not exist.

Here, in one house designed 50 years ago, Wright demonstrated such diverse ideas as to open plan; the combination of windows in continuous strips; the projection of the roof soffit in deep cantilevers far out beyond the glass; the use of continuous inside-to-outside walls to join the house to its garden; the effectiveness of a low slung roof to make the house seem more in repose; and the importance, for the same reasons, of horizontality throughout.

Similarly the Architectural Record during 1956 and 1957 ran a special feature, "One Hundred Years of Significant Buildings." Again the Robie House (February, 1957) won highest honors in rating by the Record's professional panel on the most significant buildings built in America during the past fifty years. A critical commentary by

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CONTINUATION SHEET Robie House ITEM NUMBER #8 PAGE 2

Alan Burnham, A.I.A., merits quoting:

The Robie house created at the domestic level something new to the eyes of 1909 Chicago, supplanting the symmetrical classicism of the day by an asymmetrical monumentality. In the structurally expressive use of piers, wall planes, and strips of windows all clustered about a central chimney, one senses an unusual coherence of planning. Visually this produced a bold interplay of forms with strong horizontals at different levels, originating in but leading away from the dominant vertical. The fenestration represented a radically new concept, with its almost continuous light source interrupted only by structural piers and amply shaded by wide eaves; the logical outgrowth of a harsher climate to which the conventional New England window had never been properly suited. One senses Wright's complete mastery of the house of that low-lying horizontal type of dwelling which he had originated and named the "Prairie House."

Robie House was designed and constructed by Frank Lloyd Wright, 1907-1909, for Frederick Carleton Robie, a native Chicagoan who had made his fortune in bicycles and sewing machines. Robie is reported to have told Wright, "I want a fireproof, reasonably priced house to live in not a conglomeration of doodads." The costs fell within the framework of reasonableness set by the client--for the lot he had paid \$14,000; the house was estimated at \$35,000, with \$10,000 more for furniture either designed or selected by the architect. The plans were a sweeping departure from the traditional four square approach of Living Room, Parlor, Dining Room, and Kitchen. Robie House polarized fresh architectural concepts which "saved us twenty years," according to Mies Van der Rohe, the famous German architect and teacher.

There is every reason to believe that the Robies cherished their home, which conferred international fame on them as patrons of architecture. When they disposed of it after some years of residence, it was to an appreciative owner in the person of Marshall D. Wilber, head of the Wilber Mercantile Agency. John Lloyd Wright, in his biography of his father tells us that the Wilburs loved the place and preserved everything as it was originally built. Commenting on the occasion when he accompanied the older Wright to dinner, he continued: "The old brown-stained furniture and woodwork was cleaned and polished. The soft autumn shade on the sand-finished wall panels had been maintained. The special light fixtures and leaded glass windows were clear and bright...After we left, Dad said to me: 'You see John, that's an example of a house that has character, it grows more valuable as it grows older.'"

The Robie family lived in the house for two and a half years. The next owner, the W. Taylor family, sold it to Marshall D. Wilber after six months. The Wilbers lived in

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CONTINUATION SHEET Robie House ITEM NUMBER #8 PAGE 3

the house 15 years. The Chicago Theological Seminary bought the house from the Wilbers for \$100,000 in 1926, primarily as a site for future expansion, and used it variously as a women's dormitory, a classroom, building, a refectory, and a conference center. In 1957, the Seminary announced that it would raze the building to provide part of a site for married student's housing. The announcement brought a flood of protests from many, but none of the protesting individuals or organizations was able to suggest or finance a plan for the preservation of the building. However, Webb & Knapp, who had the contract as the redeveloper for the Hyde Park urban renewal project, bought Robie House for \$102,000, to use as construction headquarters. The Seminary acquired the land just to the north of Robie House, which provided enough space for the new housing. At the time it announced its intention to raze Robie House, the Seminary said approximately \$75,000 in structural repairs was required, and the cost of bringing the building into compliance with the Building Code of the City of Chicago would be an additional \$25,000. Webb & Knapp made no structural changes. In 1962, the company offered to donate the house to any agency that would undertake to preserve it.

On February 4, 1963, the University of Chicago accepted the responsibility to maintain and use Robie House in perpetuity provided the substantial sum required to restore and repair it would be collected by those who wanted it preserved. An international committee of more than a hundred architects, historians, critics, and educators was then formed, with members representing all parts of the United States, Australia, England, France, Japan, Switzerland, Brazil, India, Italy, and Germany. The fund-raising drive for \$250,000 was opened in 1963. This amount included restoring the original details of construction, as well as bringing the house into conformity with current building code standards. A considerable amount of delicate hand removal and repair was required. In February 1964, Taliesin Associates Architects were named as architects for the restoration. By December 1965 \$62,990 had been collected. With this money, a new ceramic tile roof duplicating the original has been laid; and a new gas heating unit and new electrical service wiring have been installed.

The Adlai Stevenson Institute of International Affairs has occupied the house for a decade. A 1967 article in The Prairie School Review said that in their planning for the use of Robie House the Institute wanted a seminar and conference center as well as offices for their staff. Lacking funds for a complete restoration, the Institute decided to make such repairs as would bring the structure up to modern code requirements, do a thorough cleaning, and provide needed facilities by careful use of original and new furnishings.

With regards to alterations of the original Wright plan for the Robie House, the same article reported:

Many built-in furnishings and fittings are missing such as the dining room buffet and the inglenook seat beside the living room fireplace. On the exterior, the unfortunate tuckpoint performed in recent years must be

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CONTINUATION SHEET Robie House ITEM NUMBER #8 PAGE 4

removed, and redone to re-establish the proper horizontal emphasis to the house. The east garden wall should be restored to its original height and the addition to the garage must be removed. (p.18).

Presently, the house is in structurally sound condition, but much of the details and the Wright-designed fixtures are in need of repair and restoration.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Robie House ITEM NUMBER #9 PAGE 2

- Farr, Finis, Frank Lloyd Wright, New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1961.
- Giedion, Sigfried, Space, Time and Architecture, Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1954
- Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, Architecture Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries, Baltimore, Penguin Books, Inc., 1958.
- Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, In the Nature of Materials 1887-1941: The Buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright, New York, Duell, Sloan and Pierce, 1942.
- House Beautiful, November, 1955, special issue on Frank Lloyd Wright's Contribution to the Beauty of American Life.
- House Beautiful, October, 1959, special issue on Our Heritage from Frank Lloyd Wright.
- Karpel, Bernard, What Men Have Written About Frank Lloyd Wright, A bibliography arranged by decades from 1900 to 1955, compiled for House Beautiful Magazine 1955; with supplement, 1959.
- Mason, Frank Lloyd Wright to 1910, New York, Reinhold Publishing Corporation, 1958.
- McCallum, Ian, Architecture U.S.A., New York, Reinhold Publishing Corporation, 1959.
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- Wright, Frank Lloyd, A Testament, New York, Horizon Press, 1957.
- Wright, Frank Lloyd, An Autobiography, New York, Duell, Sloan and Pierce, 1943.
- Wright, Frank Lloyd, Drawings for a Living Architecture, New York Heritage Press for the Bear Run Foundation and the Edgar J. Kaufman Charitable Foundation, 1959.
- Wright, Frank Lloyd, On Architecture, Selected Writings 1894-1940 edited with an Introduction by Frederick Gutheim, New York Duell, Sloan and Pierce, 1941.
- Wright, Frank Lloyd, Writings and Buildings, selected by Edgar Kaufman and Ben Raeburn, New York, Horizon Press, Inc., 1960.
- Wright, John Lloyd, My Father Who Is On Earth, New York, Putman's Sons, 1946.
- Wright, Olgivanna Lloyd, The Shining Brow Frank Lloyd Wright, New York, Horizon Press, 1960.
- Zevi, Bruno, Towards an Organic Architecture, London, Faber and Faber Ltd., n.d. (c. 1949).

Historic American Buildings Survey report No Ill-1005, August 1967.  
Press release, "Architectural and Historical Guide, Robie House, prepared by University of Chicago, Office of 'Special Events,' 1975  
Original Historic Sites Survey Report by S. Sydney Bradford, 1964.



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CONTINUATION SHEET Robie House

ITEM NUMBER #10

PAGE 2

Beginning at the northeast corner of the intersection of 58th Street and Woodlawn Avenue, the boundary runs north along the east curb of Woodlawn Avenue, then east along the property line to the alley midway through the block, then south along the property line to 58th Street, then west along the north curb of 58th Street to the beginning point.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- American Institute of Architects, Journal, August, 1963.
- Andrews, Wayne, Architecture, Ambition and Americans, New York, Harper and Brothers, 1955
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- Drexler, Arthur, The Drawings of Frank Lloyd Wright, New York, Horizon Press for the Museum of Modern Art, 1962.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	16	450480	4628380	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Robie House was built on a 60 by 210 foot city lot and the overall dimensions of the house are 154'-9" by 60'-0." As seen on the enclosed HABS location plan, the boundary of the national historic landmark which is immediately surrounded by residences and office buildings, is the dimensions of the property owned by the University of Chicago, described as: Lot 16, and the south 10 feet of lot 17, Block 71 of Gray and Gaylord's subdivision of Block 71 and west half of 62. (cont'd)

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	
Blanche H. Schroer, Landmark Review Project; S. Sydney Bradford, 1964	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service	3/20/76
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
1100 L Street NW	
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Washington, D.C.	

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

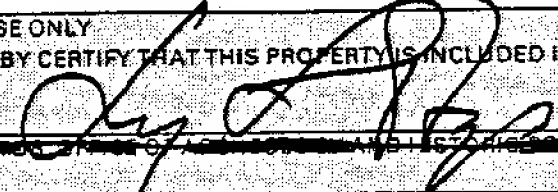
THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

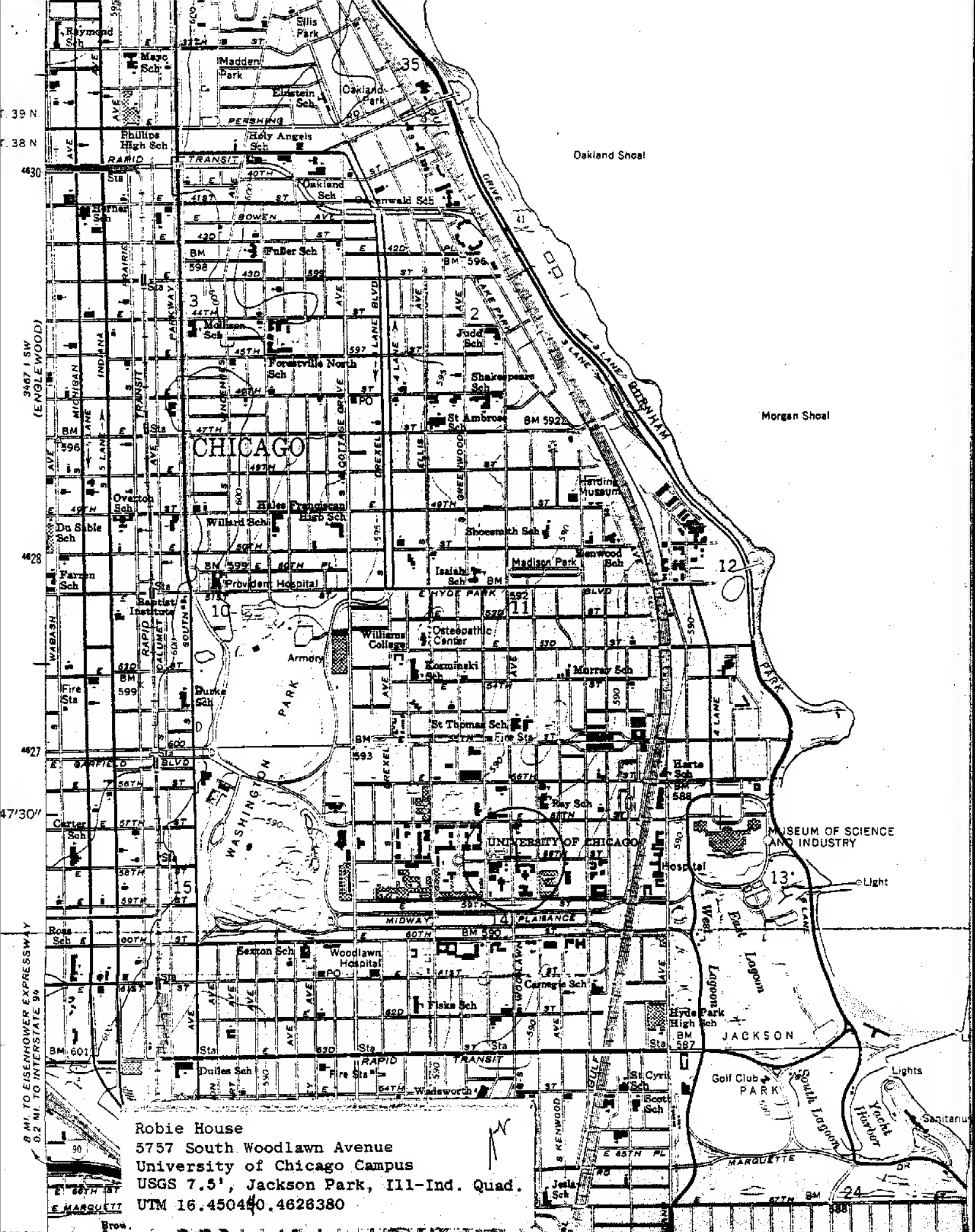
FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE	DATE
-------	------

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
	DATE 9/8/83
ATTEST:	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

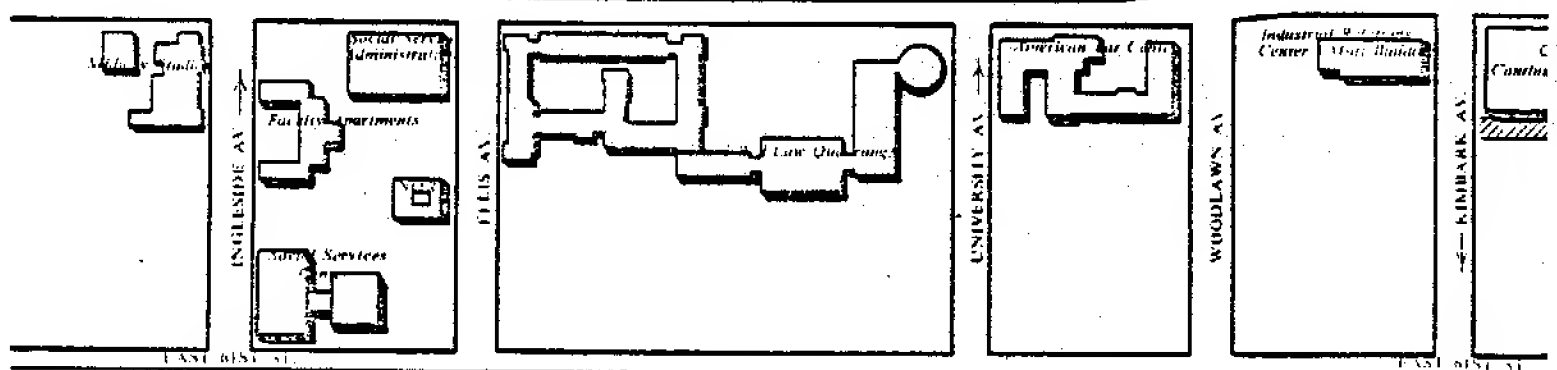
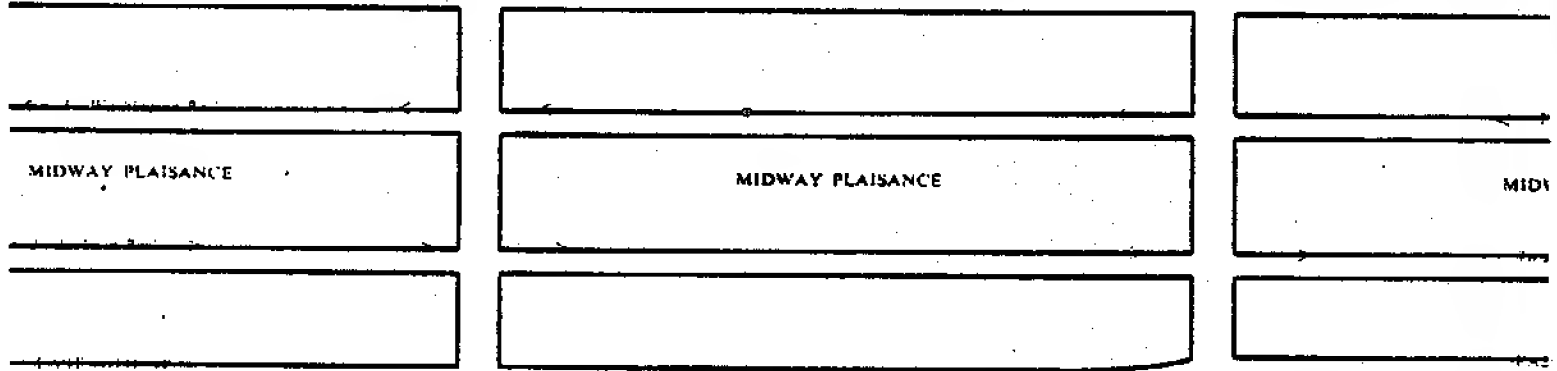
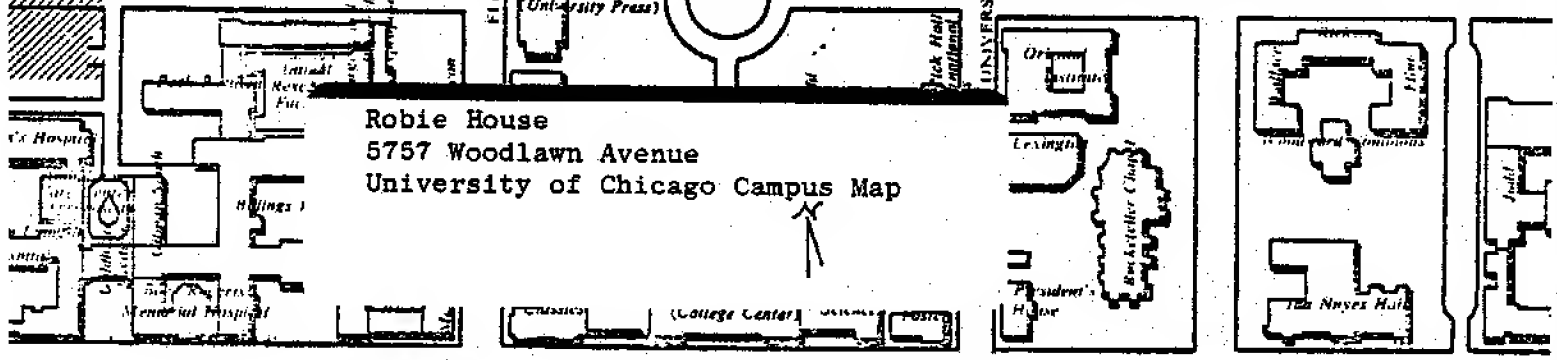
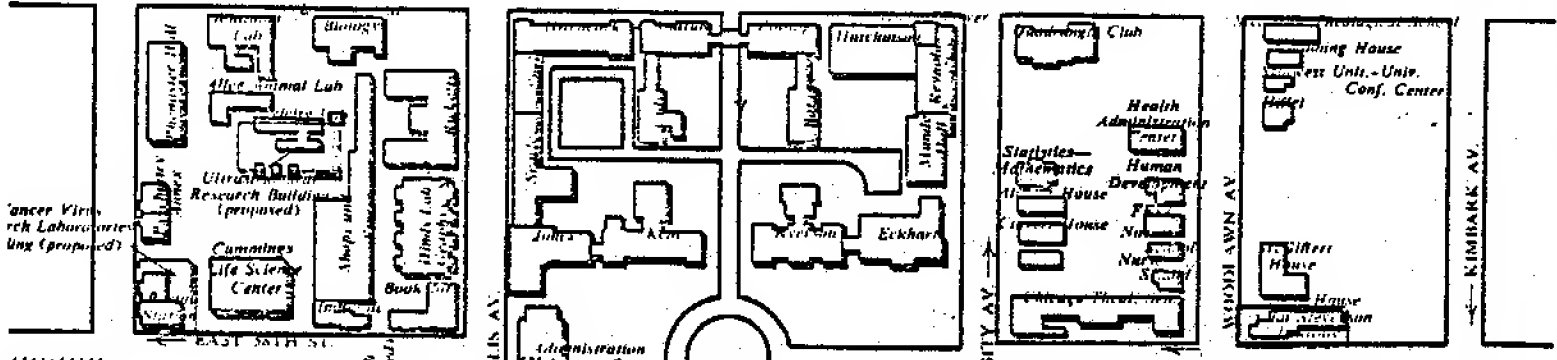
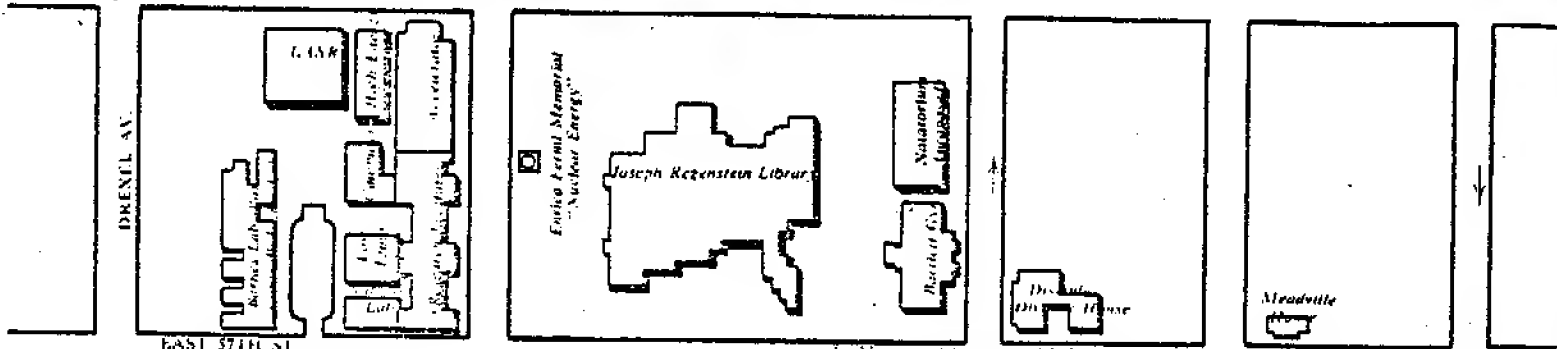


Robie House  
 5757 South Woodlawn Avenue  
 University of Chicago Campus  
 USGS 7.5', Jackson Park, Ill-Ind. Quad.  
 UTM 16.450440.4626380

3467 1 SW (ENGLEWOOD)

8 MI. TO EISENHOWER EXPRESSWAY  
0.2 MI. TO INTERSTATE 94

840 000



2

3

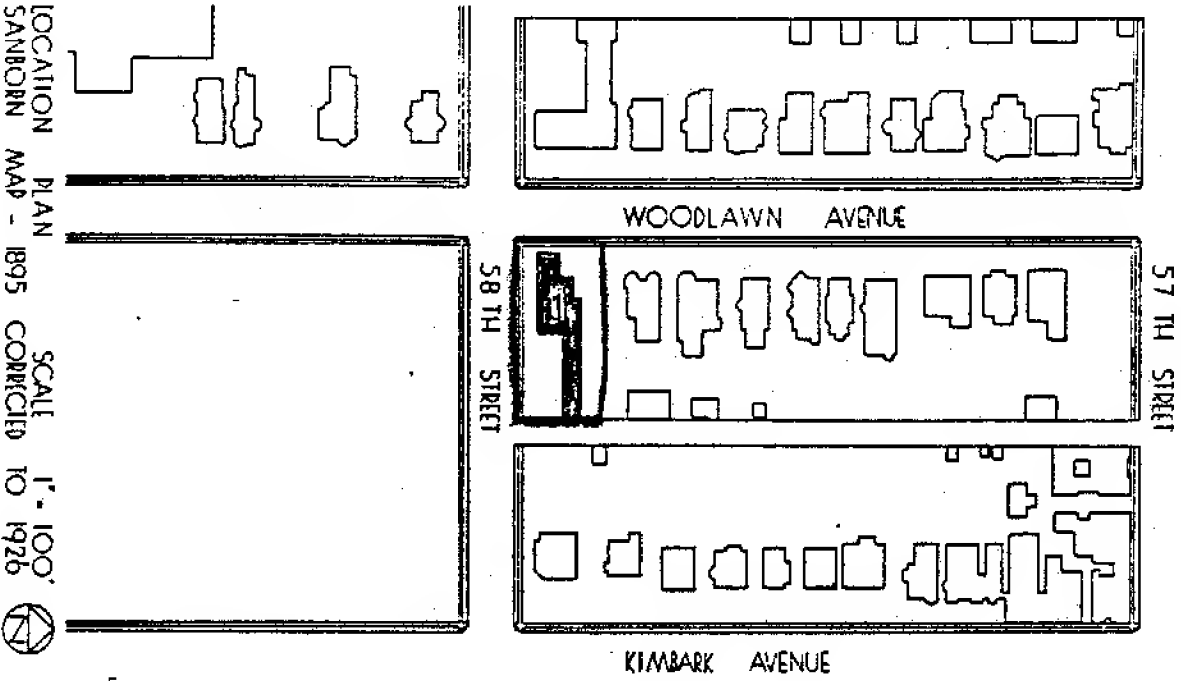
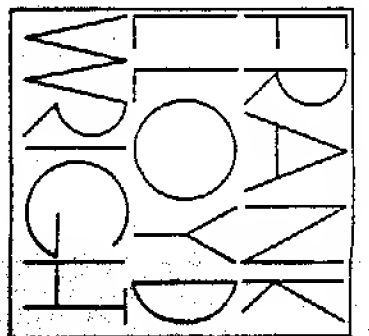
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7

# FREDERICK C. ROBLE HOUSE

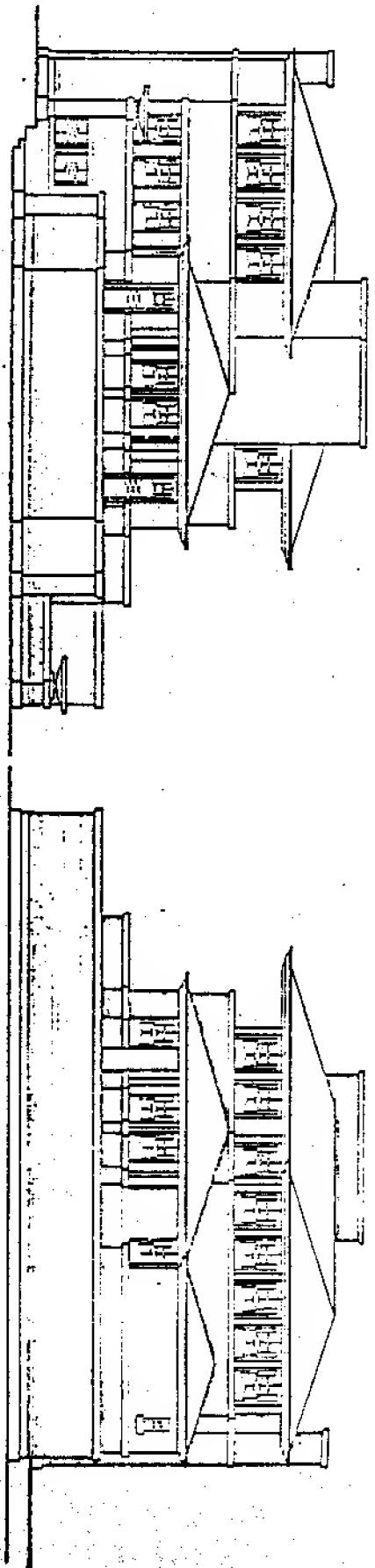


THE ROBLE HOUSE, BUILT IN 1908-1909, WAS DESCRIBED BY ITS ARCHITECT FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT, AS "A MASONRY STRUCTURE OF TANNY BRICK AND STONE WITH RED TILE ROOF, EAVES OF CORNER WOODWORK OF OAK THROUGHOUT. THIS BECAME KNOWN IN GERMANY AS 'DÄMMER' ARCHITECTURE. IT WAS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE PREREQUISITE OF THAT PERIOD."

COMMISSION ON CHICAGO ARCHITECTURAL LANDMARKS CHIEF THE ROBLE HOUSE AS "A HOME ORGANIZED AROUND A GREAT HALL WITH INTERIOR SPACE UNDER WIDE SWEEPING ROOFS, OPEN TO THE OUTDOORS. THE OLD INTERPLAY OF HORIZONTAL PLANES ABOUT THE CHIMNEY MASS, AND THE STRUCTURALLY EXPRESSIVE PILES AND WINDOWS, ESTABLISHED A NEW FORM OF DOMESTIC DESIGN."

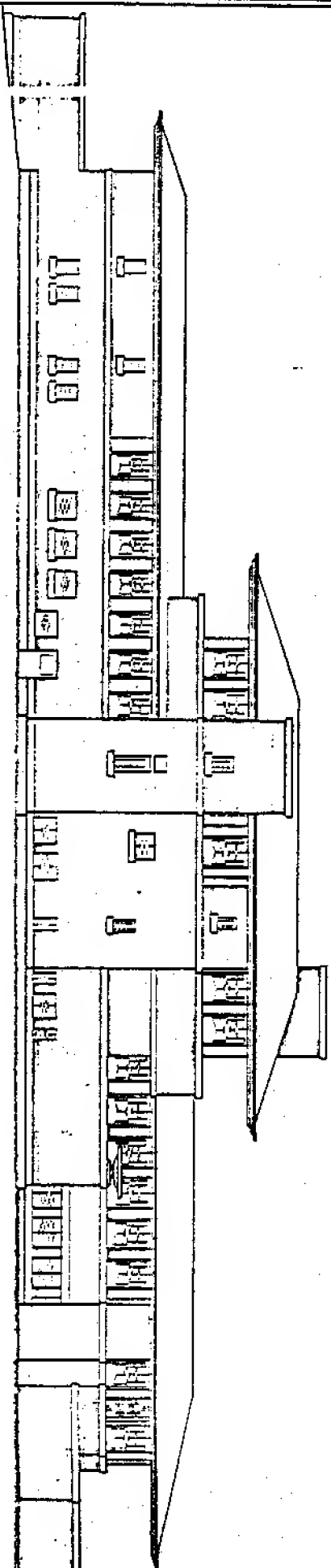
RECORDED BY THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

THIS PROJECT WAS FINANCED FROM FUNDS OF THE "MISSION 66" PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE - MEASURED AND DRAWN AUGUST 1963, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF JAMES C. MASSEY, HATS SWINNEY ARCHITECT, AND EARL H. REED, FAIA, PROJECT SPONSOR, BY OSAMUND R. O'BRYEN (UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO), PROJECT SUPERVISOR, AND STUDENT ASSISTANT ARCHITECTS JAMES J. ERNS (ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), ROBERT C. GIBNER (MIAMI UNIVERSITY OF OHIO), AND DAVID T. VAN ZANTEN (PRINCETON UNIVERSITY). AT THE CHICAGO, ILLINOIS FIELD OFFICE. THE DRAWINGS WERE PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION BY NPS ARCHITECT A. CRAIG MORRISON.



WEST ELEVATION

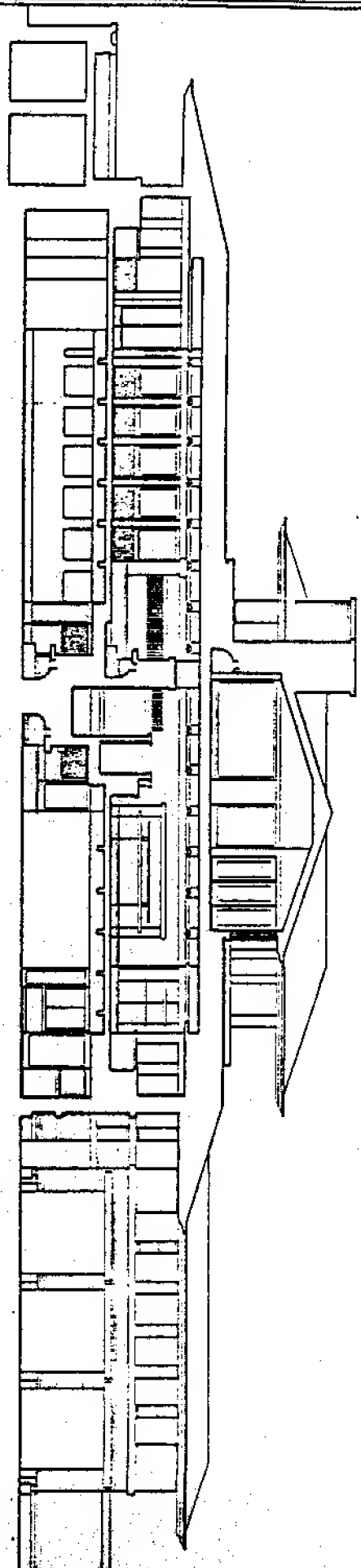
EAST ELEVATION



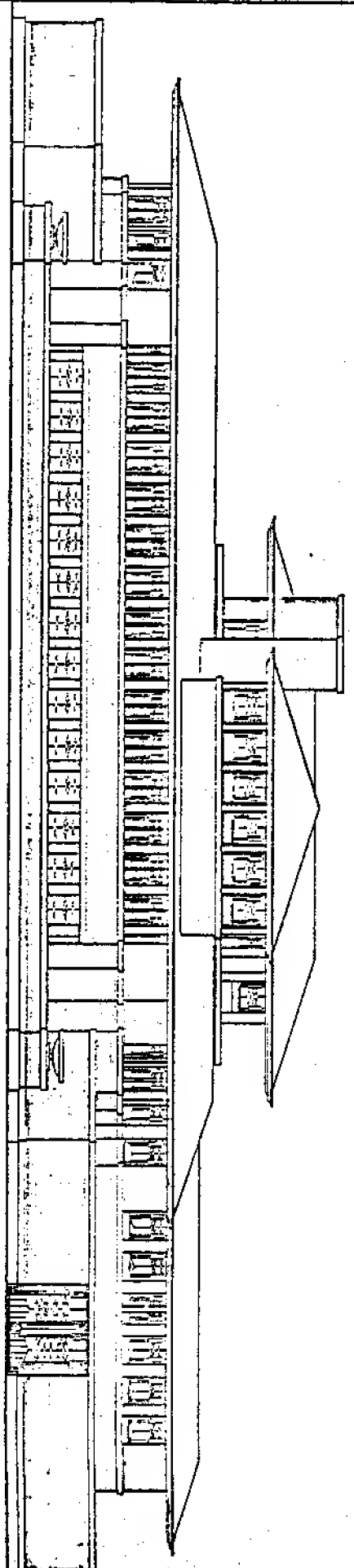
NORTH ELEVATION

JANIS J. ERNS, AIA

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"  
1" = 4'-0"  
1/2" = 2'-0"  
1/8" = 1'-0"  
1/16" = 6"



LONGITUDINAL SECTION

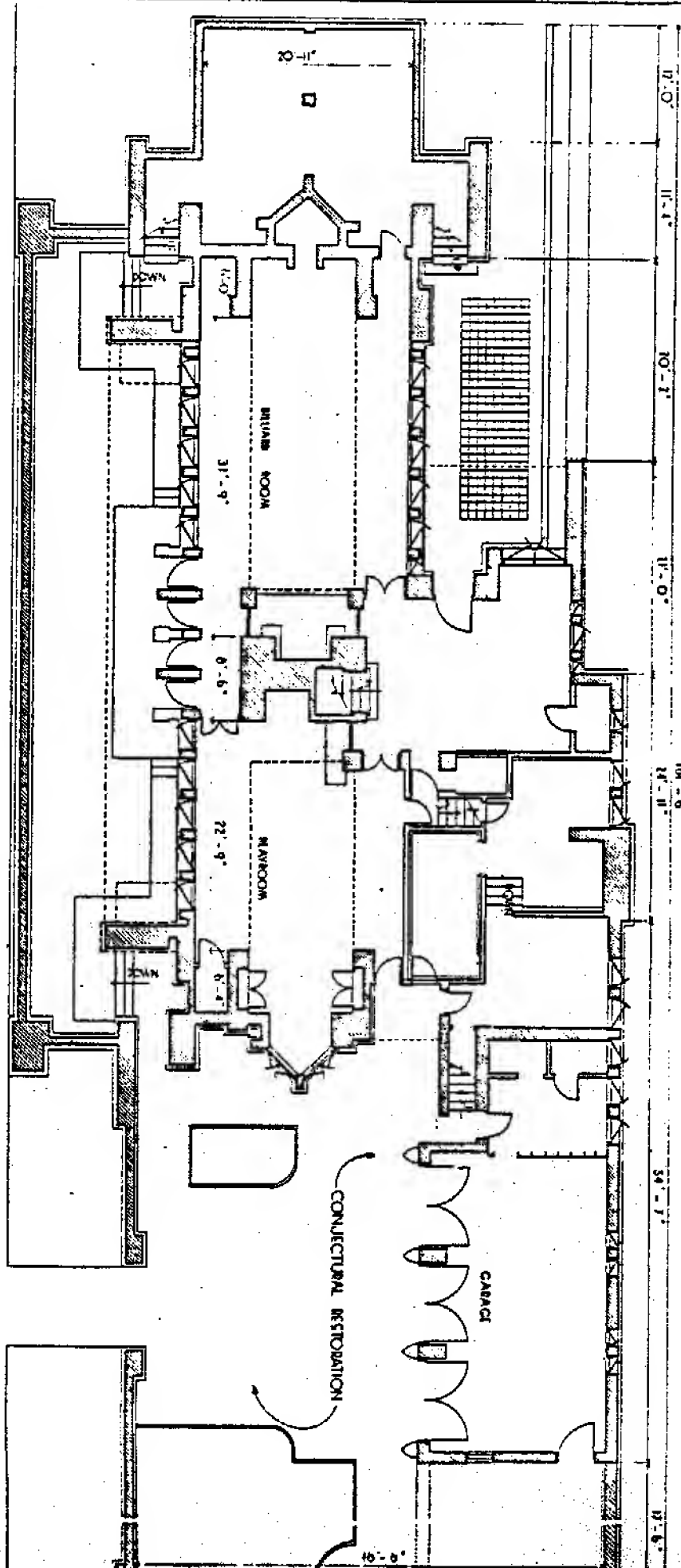


SOUTH ELEVATION

JANIS J. ERINS, OIL.

SCALE 1" = 1'-0"  
1" = 1'-0"  
1" = 1'-0"  
1" = 1'-0"

FIRST (GROUND) FLOOR PLAN



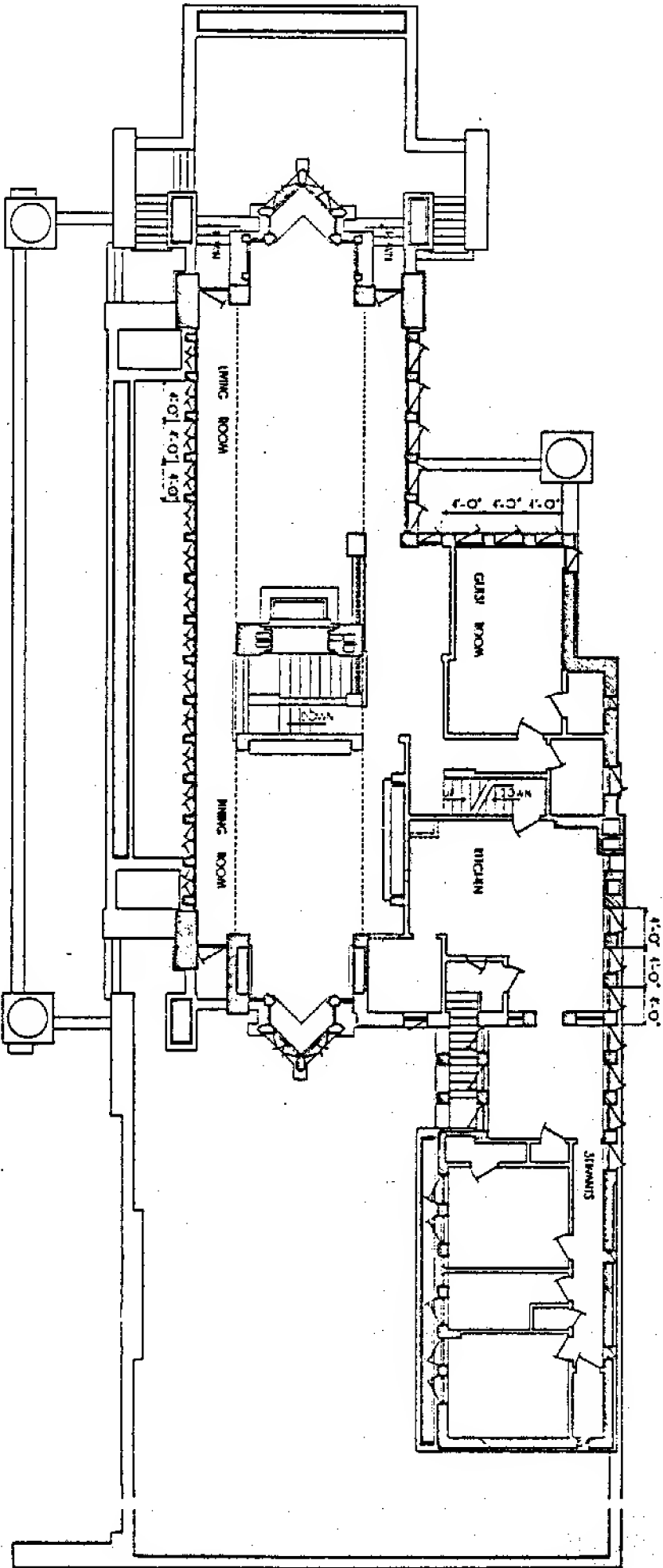
THE GARAGE HAS BEEN REAR-UP  
 IN THE ADJUNCTION OF THE ROOM  
 ON THE EAST SIDE AND IN PORTION  
 OF THE WALL AROUND THE SERVICE  
 YARD, ORIGINALLY 8 FEET HIGH HAS  
 BEEN CUT DOWN TO 3 FEET. THE  
 BILLIARD ROOM AND THE BAR ROOM  
 HAVE BEEN DIVIDED BY PARTIALLY IN-  
 TIONS INTO SEVERAL SMALL ROOMS.  
 THE FRENCH DOORS TO THE SOUTH  
 YARD AND THE ROOM HAVE BEEN  
 CLOSED OFF. SERVICE YARD RESTORED  
 FROM PREVIOUS SKETCHES.

ROBERT C. WERNICK, AIA

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"  
 1/8" = 1'-0"  
 1/16" = 1'-0"



SECOND FLOOR (MAIN) PLAN



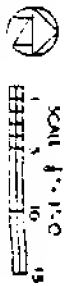
THE ORIGINAL BUILT-IN BRIT STOVE ON THE NORTH WALL OF THE DINING ROOM HAS BEEN REMOVED AND TWO ROOMS HAVE BEEN CUT THROUGH THE WALL BEHIND IT. THE BOOR BILMIN HAS BEEN LUMINATED. CARPENTERS DO NOT SHOW THE BOOR AT THE TOP OF THE REAR STAIRS TO THE GUEST ROOM. THE WOODEN FIBRE AND SCREIN IN THE LIVING ROOM NEXT TO THE FIREPLACE HAVE BEEN REMOVED.

JANIS J. EYNS, DEL.

HARRIS CHICAGO PROJECT 1963

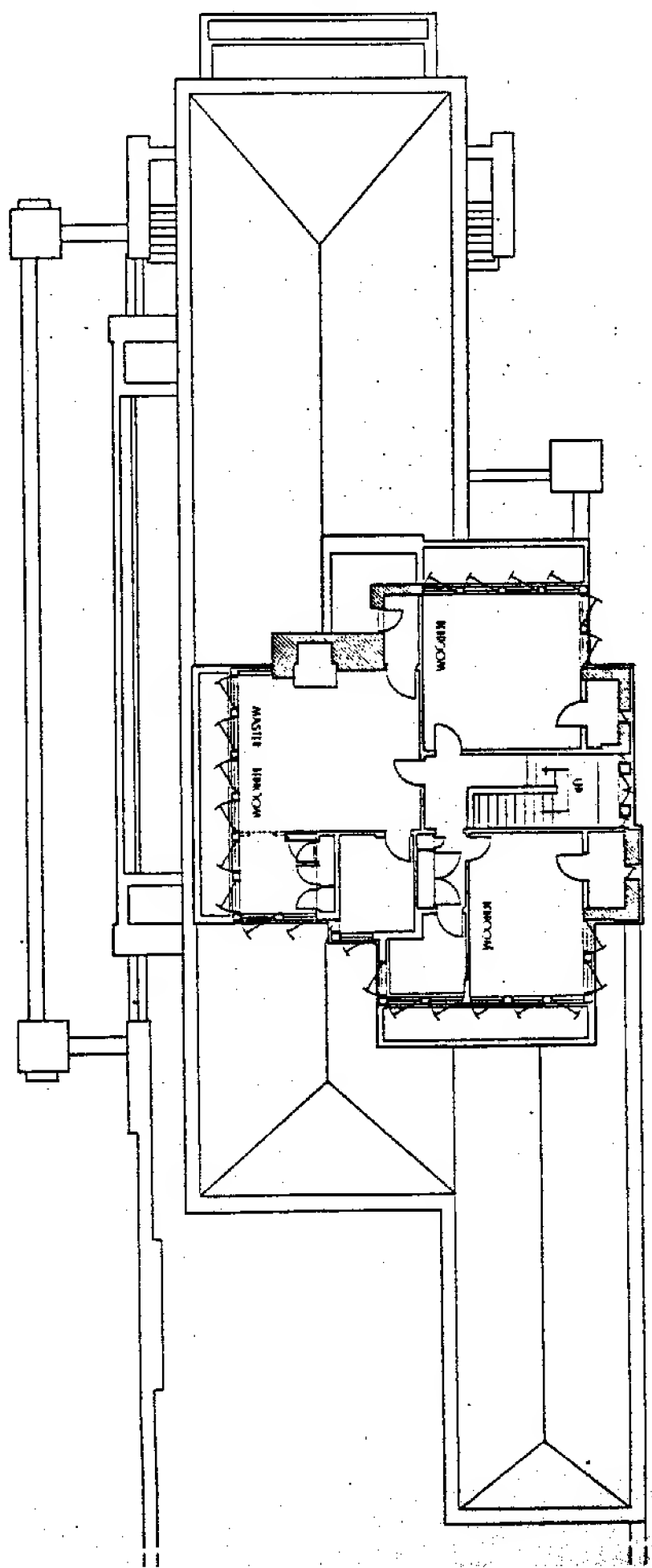
FREDERICK C. ROBBIE HOUSE  
 4327 SOUTH WORTH AVE. APT. 111, CHICAGO, ILL. 60605

HISTORIC AMERICAN PUBLIC OFFICE SURVEY

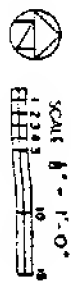


THIRD FLOOR PLAN

A DOORWAY HAS BEEN INSULATED BETWEEN THE MASTER BEDROOM AND THE DRESSING ROOM.



ROBERT C. GIBBINS, DEL.



ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

CK-H-43

✓ - 4000

1. Name of Site:

Common Stevenson Institute

Historic ~~Robie~~ House  
Robie

2. Location:

Street and Number 5757 S. Woodlawn Township Section  
City or Town Chicago Zip Code Range 1/4 Section  
County Cook

3. Classification:

Category (check one) Integrity (check one)  
( ) District (x) Building ( ) Altered (x) Unaltered  
( ) Site ( ) Structure ( ) Moved (x) Original Site

4. Ownership:

Status (check one)  
(x) Private (x) Occupied  
( ) Public ( ) Unoccupied  
( ) Preservation work in progress

Access to Public

( ) Yes (x) Restricted ( ) Unrestricted ( ) No

Present Use (check one or more)

( ) Agricultural ( ) Industrial ( ) Religious  
( ) Commercial ( ) Military ( ) Scientific  
(x) Educational ( ) Museum ( ) Transportation  
( ) Entertainment ( ) Park ( ) Other  
( ) Government ( ) Private Residence

5. Ownership of Property:

Owner's Name Adlai Stevenson Institute Phone Number

Street and Number

City or Town

State County Zip Code

6. Description: Prairie School

(x) Excellent ( ) Good ( ) Fair ( ) Deteriorated  
( ) Ruins ( ) Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway? (x) Yes ( ) No

ARCHITECTURE

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

- Archeological Site (Pre-Columbian)
- Archeological Site (Post-Columbian to 1673)
- French Influence (1673-1780)
- Illinois Frontier (1780-1818)
- Illinois Early (1818-1850)
- Illinois Middle (1850-1900)
- Illinois Late (1900-present)
- Famous People (give names & dates) F.L. Wright

8. Specific Date:

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

- Aboriginal (historic)
- Aboriginal (pre-historic)
- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Art
- Commerce
- Communication
- Conservation
- Education
- Engineering
- Industry
- Invention
- Landscape Architecture
- Literature
- Military
- Music
- Political
- Religion/Philosophy
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social/Humanitarian
- Theater
- Transportation
- Urban Planning
- Other (specify)

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates)

Use additional sheets if necessary. Wright's "masterpiece". National Register. National Historic Landmark.

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 6/23/75

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street and Number: \_\_\_\_\_

City or Town: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

Drury, 496  
National Register material

<input type="checkbox"/>	Survey Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Archaeology
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Architecture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	History

1. Name of Site:

Robie House

Robie (Frederick C.) House

Historic

2. Location of site:

Street and Number

5757 South Woodlawn Avenue

Township

Section

City or Town

Zip Code

Range

W. Section

Chicago

60637

County

Cook

3. Classification

Category: (check one)

District

Building

Altered

Unaltered

Site

Structure

Integrity: (check one)

Moved

Original form

4. Ownership:

Status:

Public

Occupied

Preservation work in progress

Private

Unoccupied

Access to the public:

Free

Restricted

Unrestricted

No

Present Use: (check one or more)

Agricultural

Industrial

Religious

Commercial

Military

Scientific

Educational

Museum

Transportation

Entertainment

Park

Other specify

Government

Private residence

5. Owner of property:

Owner's name

Phone number

University of Chicago

Street and number

5801 Ellis Avenue

City or town

Chicago

State

Illinois

County

Cook

Zip Code

60637

6. Description:  
Condition:

Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation under way?  Yes  No

If yes, give a brief description on the back of this page.

7. Historical themes: (check one or more of the following)

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological site      | (pre-Columbian)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological site      | (post-Columbian to 1673) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French influence         | (1673-1780)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois frontier        | (1780-1818)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois early           | (1818-1850)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois middle          | (1850-1900)              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois late | (1900-present)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Famous people            | (give names and dates)   |

1. Specific date of site:

Areas of significance: (check one or more)

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (Pre-historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture               | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture              | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication             | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning       |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)      |

Brief statement of significance: (Include all names and dates)

Use back of page and additional sheets if necessary.

8. Form prepared by

Name and Title: Elizabeth A. Dippel Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: National Register

Street and Number: 801 19th Street, N.W.

City or Town: Washington, D.C. County: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: 20006

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for references for a particular site.

When filling out the survey form, please list according to the following example any published references to the site for which the form is being completed.

If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly reduce the surveyor's task.

Bibliography Form.

Robertson, Robert B. Of Whales and Men, New York, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

See Bibliography Form, K-11, 1954

### Description:

Outstanding external features are the unbroken horizontal lines of walls and roof (the cantilevers of which, placed at disparate levels and opposite angles, provide a tiered effect); a central chimney, the form of which is repeated by brick piers at both ends of the facade; the continuation of interior walls to the porch sections, thus uniting the house with its surroundings; and the elevation of the main floor over a raised basement. Building material is brick with sandstone caps and sills, and the windows are matching strips of leaded glass. Interior trim is oak. Original floors and the main inside stairway are concrete.

At the present time some repair is needed, although the house is structurally sound. Principally, this would involve restoration of the interior in accordance with the original plans, new tuckpointing, and rebuilding of the red clay tile roof.

### Significance:

Frank Lloyd Wright has been the foremost American architect of the 20th century, and the Robie House is the embodiment of his Prairie Style architecture. Built between 1908 and 1909, the house set precedents which influenced national and international domestic architecture for the next sixty years as it represented a radical break with traditional form and style. The house is highlighted generally by the strong horizontal planes of the exterior, the open and fluid organization of interior space, and specifically by the introduction of indirect electric lighting and concealed heating, the integration of garage with dwelling, and the central placement of the fireplace.

Wright's Prairie Style was an attempt to eliminate the boxlike home. It was a new interpretation of space which emphasized beauty in function and joined interior to exterior in a single, continuous unit. Overall architectural form was to be dictated by function and the individual lines and planes, by environment. Wright's radical break with traditional architecture was exemplified by a simplicity of style and innovation in the design of necessary elements such as windows, stairways, and lighting.

### Bibliographical References:

- Ashbee, Charles Robert, Frank Lloyd Wright, eine Studio zu seiner Wuerdigung. (Berlin: Ernst Wasmuth, 1911), pp. 112-13.
- \_\_\_\_\_, Ausgefuehrte Bauten und Entwuerfe. (Berlin: Ernst Wasmuth, 1910).
- Farr, Finis, Frank Lloyd Wright: A biography. (New York: Charles Scribners' Sons, 1961), pp. 100-4, 225.
- Hitchcock, Henry Russell, In the Nature of Materials. (New York: Duell, Sloan, and Pearce, 1942), pp. 40, 79, 102.
- Manson, Grant C., Frank Lloyd Wright to 1910. (New York: Reinhold Publishing Corporation, 1958), pp. 35, 79, 154n., 171, 187, 198, 201.

